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ACCOUNTS yesterday of "Kim" Philby's career as Russia's master spy spoke of him as a possible head of MI6, the British secret intelligence service. I very much doubt whether this prospect ever existed.

Between its foundation in 1911 and 1939 the head was always a naval officer—most recently Adml. Sir Hugh Sinclair ("Quex"), who died shortly after the last war began.

His successor was Maj.-Gen. Sir Stewart Menzies, who retired in 1951, and the other two heads after him, including the present one, have also been Army men.

Thus, no agent in the field has ever been in charge of MI6 and it is most unlikely that an exception would have been made for Philby.

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